

**Schoharie Watershed
Education and Outreach Committee Meeting
October 1, 2009
9 am- 11 am**

Attending: Liz LoGiudice (GC Cornell Cooperative Ext.), Michelle Yost & Jeff Flack (GCSWCD-WAP), Diane Galusha (CWC), Josh Gorman (GCSWCD), Michelle Yost (WAP), Dave Burns (DEP)

Schoharie Watershed Week (10-15 min)

- Schoharie Watershed Week Scoping Meeting
 - First step- Josh will organize a scoping meeting in November to invite the general public and a targeted audience of potential partners to discuss the development of the events. The goal of the meeting is to form a steering committee to help develop the daily events and find host organizations and businesses.
 - Josh will send invites to the potential partners and local business, send out a press release for the meeting and start to contact specific partners about participation via phone.

Educational Kiosks (10-15 min)

- GCSWCD is putting together 3-4 kiosks at a selection of the demonstration projects throughout the mountain.
- The kiosks are in draft form and the GCSWCD staff will review the drafts and solidify the content.
- Staff will put more project specific information into the kiosk display and highlight the key components of the project.
- GCSWCD will then put out an RFP for the development of the kiosks, based on the draft information.

Draft Workshops and Training Schedule (10 min)

- As a group the committee went through the various topics for the stakeholder groups and discussed focusing the first year of workshops.
 - **Riparian Landowners** –
Sessions will provide basic understanding of fluvial process, factors impacting stability/water quality, and management decisions for the promotion of a healthy stream. Training will highlight the importance of riparian buffer vegetations. Sessions will provide landowners with training in effective stream protection actions for their own property.
 - **Potential Start Date- May –June 2010**
 - **Partners:** Catskill Stream Buffer Initiative, Watershed Agriculture Partnership

Comments

The Riparian landowner workshops will focus on proactive outreach.

What can landowner do now to protect their property and water quality? These will be hands on workshops. The workshops can help build the stewardship ethic and CSBI participation.

- **Municipal Leaders -**

Sessions will highlight the importance of local management of the watershed and stream resources. Workshop will provide Municipal leaders understand basic fluvial process, with an emphasis on how local decision makers can support stream health through their leadership. Sessions must address the multiple benefits which can be realized by protecting stream and watershed health. Field tours highlighting issues and specific problems with municipal leaders can provide an excellent forum for exchange between the leaders, the public and the resource managers.

- *Potential Start Date: Winter 2010*

- Comments

- The committee discussed the most effective way to educate municipal officials. The group felt it would be best to first work with the local planning commission, and then the education coordinator and planning commissions can work with the elected official to bring them on board. The first educational topic will be developing a Fluvial Erosion education presentation for the communities. NYC DEP will be working with GCSWCD to develop fluvial erosion maps for local communities.

- **Planning Boards & Code Enforcement Personnel**

Stream awareness/innovative development technique sessions should be targeted at this important group of local decision makers. Planning boards have a significant ability to effect change in land use practices which may impact stream health. The first topic will be fluvial erosion hazard zones.

- *Potential Start Date: Winter 2009-2010*

- Comments

- See above. The first educational topic will be developing a fluvial erosion education presentation for the communities and at the same time developing the maps that identify the fluvial erosion hazard zones.

- **Local/County/State Highway Department**

This group has the most direct ability to impact stream health. Day to day activities in the maintenance of the road systems and other public infrastructure frequently involves local waterways, and often actions which may seem harmless can create extreme instability problems that grow in size by moving up or downstream and become very costly to repair. This group of stakeholders must not only have a knowledge of

basic stream process, but they must also have the ability to recognize what changes are occurring in a problem area, as well as the potential impact of any management action they may take. This training would not be a substitution for highways departments seeking technical advice from experienced stream managers on a case by case basis, but would help.

Comments

- Emergency response management is a huge topic of concern. This has been a priority for the stream management program for a few years. Delaware County Soil and Water has put on similar workshops that have been very well received. Josh will work with Joel to develop a workshop for this winter following the Watershed Summit.

• **Banks/Realtors/Insurance**

Many landowner inquiries involve floodplains and the flood insurance program. A joint workshop session for the financial, real estate and insurance businesses would be an effective vehicle to address flood insurance, lending regulations and other issues related to these industries.

- **Potential Start Date: Winter 2010**

Comments

In the past there was a similar workshop that was very well received. It will be better to tag along with a larger training for realtors rather than go it alone.

• **Contractors & Developers**

Local contractors should receive training to allow them to make better decisions regarding impacts to streams. Contractors can benefit from training on new methodologies for addressing stream stability, the permitting process and project construction issues such as water quality protection. Contractor training should also address stormwater management as well as sediment and erosion control.

- **Potential Timeline: Winter 2010**

Comments

- Along with an in-house workshop in the winter, Josh would like to have a summer night hands on demonstration days for contractors and developers to visit GCSWCD projects to work with the crew on different stormwater.
- In the past GCSWCD has hosted a stormwater training certificate program that was very successful. It might be good to make these a regular training opportunity for contractors and developers.

Watershed Surveys (10-15 minutes)

- Josh found some example survey questions for each of the above workshop categories. If you are interested in seeing the surveys just ask Josh.

- At the last meeting we discussed mailing surveys, posting them online and/or using the surveys to design the workshops. Josh proposed using the surveys at the first round of workshops to gather input, rather than sending them out prior. The group felt this would work best and it is more important to mail educational information than surveys.

Watershed Summit (10 minutes)

1. Watershed Summit Planning Meeting October 20th 9-11am at the Tannersville Office

Here is a list of topics and possible presenters as well. For the morning part, Scott and Ben ranked the highest last year and they would be a draw to bring people back.

- LID presenter – Scott H. again
- Nate Hendricks, CWC on funding programs – tie stormwater funding to innovative LID projects
- Joe Damrath, DEP Stormwater regulations – organize like a skit similar to last year?
- Ben Murdock, CCCD more on invasive
- Barry Baldigo, USGS – water division, research in basin (habitat, turbidity)
- SEQRA – can never get enough!
- Mary Beth Bianconi, Delaware Engineering – possible break out for Hunter corridor communities, specific outreach to planning board for this project

Japanese Knotweed Landowner Handout and Mailing (5-10 min)

Comments

- GCSWCD working on distribution list and materials
- GCSWCD will develop a brochure similar to the “Spread the Word Not the Weed” but make it more specific for our watershed.
- Ulster County Cooperative Extension partnership to keep a consistent message across the Catskill. Josh will be meeting with Michael Courtney on October 20th.

SWAC Grants Approved for Education and Outreach

- Mountain Top Arboretum Wet Meadow, Interpretive Kiosk & Brochures
- Manor Kill Environmental Study Team/Stream Management Implementation
- SWAC and Schoharie Watershed Week logos
- **Next SWAC meeting October 22nd at 6pm here in the Tannersville Office.**

Comments

The committee discussed an idea presented to the SWAC committee to have students develop the logos as a contest with a \$\$ prize. After some discussion we agreed have the SWAC logo developed by a design firm.

As far as the Schoharie Watershed Week logo, we thought it would be a good idea to have a contest for students. This could potential be an annual contest. The logo can in essence be like a new poster/add for the event each year.

Next Meeting (5 min)

December 9th 6pm
Tannersville Office
Pizza and Beverages.